

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT INTENSIFIES FIGHT AGAINST LAND INVASION

17 August 2020

MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and CoGTA, Lebogang Maile, has been engaged in a series of discussions with his provincial counterpart, MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, Faith Mazibuko, concerning the growing land invasions in the province.

There has been an upsurge of land invasions in the province since the corona virus outbreak and subsequent lockdown. This has necessitated that the provincial government develop an emergency province-wide strategy to rescue the situation and prevent it from imploding.

This strategy will see the provincial government deploy 1500 community safety patrollers across the province over the next three months in order to prevent and discourage invasion of land. Through this intervention, we aim to extend policing visibility at identified land invasion hot spots, in order to prevent invasion of land.

The community safety patrollers will be made up of volunteers from within the affected land invasion hot spot communities, meaning that they will be best equipped to gather local intelligence that will assist us to be able to pre-empt and prevent land grabs.

“As government we are going to act decisively to prevent land invasions. Various law enforcement agencies must exert the authority of the state, and those responsible must face the wrath of the law”, said MEC Maile.

According to MEC Maile, “land invasions make planning and development intended for our communities near impossible. Hence, we call on communities to report illegal invasions to local authorities”.

As part of the solution, the Gauteng government will be intensifying the roll out of its “rapid land response programme” to deserving beneficiaries, who will be able to build houses for themselves. Through this programme, we will be able to accelerate housing delivery and clear up our bloated beneficiary list for free houses. The current pandemic has impacted negatively on several interventions measures we have introduced, to deal with the housing backlog in the province.

President Ramaphosa’s announcement on Saturday, easing regulations and opening up the economy, will enable us to work on completing some of our human settlement’s projects, in order to address the urgent housing needs of our communities. The Gauteng government remains committed to pro-actively responding to the service delivery challenges and demands of our communities.

Ends.

For further enquiries:

Contact:

Castro Ngobese

Spokesperson: MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and CoGTA

Mobile: 060 997 7790

Email: castro.ngobese@gauteng.gov.za